

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-10, 12-16, 18 and 20-24 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 4, 12, 14, 16 and 18 are amended, claims 3, 5, 17 and 19 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and new claims 23-24 are added. Various amendments are made to the claims for clarity and are unrelated to issues of patentability.

This Amendment is filed after the filing of a Request for Continued Examination in which the February 20 amendments were entered.

Independent claim 1 recites setting a period of each sustaining pulse in proportion to said average picture level, the sustaining pulse having a wider period as the average picture level becomes higher, the wider period being obtained by increasing a high width of the sustaining pulse in proportion to the average picture level and maintaining a low width of the sustaining pulse.

The applied references do not teach or suggest these features of independent claim 1. More specifically, U.S. Patent 7,023,406 to Nunomura merely controls frequency in which high width and low width are controlled at a same time. However, this does not teach or suggest the specific features of independent claim 1 relating to increasing the high width of the sustaining pulse in proportion with the average picture level and maintaining a low width of the sustaining pulse. Accordingly, independent claim 1 defines patentable subject matter.

Independent claim 4 recites setting a period of each sustaining pulse in proportion to said average picture level, the sustaining pulse having a wider period as the average picture level becomes higher, the wider period being obtained by increasing a low width of the sustaining pulse and maintaining a high width of the sustaining pulse. For at least similar reasons as set

forth above, Nunomura does not teach or suggest at least these features. Thus, independent claim 4 defines patentable subject matter.

Independent claim 12 recites setting a high width of the sustaining pulse in proportion to said average picture level, the high width being set such that the sustaining pulse has a wider period as the average picture level becomes higher. Nunomura does not teach or suggest at least these features. Thus, independent claim 12 defines patentable subject matter.

Independent claim 14 recites setting a low width of the sustaining pulse in proportion to said average picture level, the low width being set such that the sustaining pulse has a wider period as the average picture level becomes higher. Nunomura does not teach or suggest at least these features. Thus, independent claim 14 defines patentable subject matter.

Independent claim 16 recites period setting means for setting a period of a sustaining pulse in such a manner to be in proportion to said average picture level set by the average picture level means, the sustaining pulse having a wider period as the average picture level becomes higher, the wider period being obtained by increasing a high width of the sustaining pulse in proportion to the average picture level and maintaining a low width of the sustaining pulse. For at least similar reasons as set forth above, Nunomura does not teach or suggest at least these features. Thus, independent claim 16 defines patentable subject matter.

Independent claim 18 recites period setting means for setting a period of a sustaining pulse in such a manner to be in proportion to said average picture level set by the average picture level means, the sustaining pulse having a wider period as the average picture level becomes higher, the wider period being obtained by a low width of the sustaining pulse and maintaining a high width of the sustaining pulse. For at least similar reasons as set forth above, Nunomura

does not teach or suggest at least these features. Thus, independent claim 18 defines patentable subject matter.

Accordingly, each of independent claims 1, 4, 12, 14, 16 and 18 defines patentable subject matter. Each of the dependent claims depends from one of the independent claims and therefore defines patentable subject matter at least for this reason. In addition, the dependent claims recite features that further and independently distinguish over the applied references.

For example, dependent claim 23 recites that setting the high width occurs without setting a low width of the sustaining pulse in proportion to said average picture level. Further, dependent claim 24 recites that setting the low width occurs without setting a high width of the sustaining pulse in proportion to said average picture level. Nunomura does not teach or suggest these features. Thus, dependent claims 23-24 define patentable subject matter at least for these additional reasons.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 2, 4-10, 12-16 and 18-24 are earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

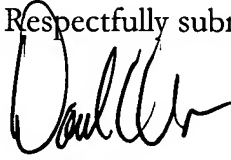
To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this,

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concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,



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